



# **John Reich Journal**

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February 2011

# JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 135 Harrison, OH 45030

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues .....\$25.00  
Life Membership .....\$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: Newly discovered JR14 Bust Dime.

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## Editors' Comments

This edition of the John Reich Journal features the newest member of our fraternity on the cover. The illustration is of the newly discovered 1827 JR14 Capped Bust dime. This is the first discovery of a new die marriage for this series since the publication of the reference book **Early United States Dimes** in 1984 by Davis, Logan, Lovejoy, McCloskey, and Subjack. The last die marriage identified, just before publication of the book, was the 1824 JR2 by noted die marriage collector H. Roland Willasch. No one would have thought that it would be over 25 years for the next new die marriage to be discovered! In fact, the authors stated in the introduction of their book, "...the authors realize and expect that additions to the varieties listed in this book will undoubtedly be discovered." Well, here is the first of those discoveries making all the previously complete die marriage collections wanting a new addition. The dime mavens will have something more to look for than upgrades for the near future. You can read the story of John McCloskey's and my trip to authenticate and confirm this new discovery later in this issue.

The annual EAC convention is coming up in Portland, Oregon on May 12-15. They have again graciously invited the members of JRCS to participate in the convention. It will be held at the DoubleTree Inn downtown. JRCS member Nathan Markowitz is one of the chairs of this year's convention, a first. You can contact Nathan at [cascades1787@yahoo.com](mailto:cascades1787@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the convention. We will continue the tradition of having our own happening room on Thursday evening to study silver coins. We have selected the following die marriages for study at the happening:

Half Dime, 1831 LM-1

Dime 1827 JR-1

Quarter 1806 B-5 and B-6

Half Dollar 1808 O-110 and 1817 O105

Dollar 1798 B-14

We encourage the membership to bring these die marriages with them, or send them with a trusted friend, to the convention for study. We will also need volunteers at the convention to man the tables at the happening. Please contact your editor at [jrcs19@roadrunner.com](mailto:jrcs19@roadrunner.com) if you are able to help at the convention. The happenings commence following the reception on Thursday evening and last for a few hours. The EAC members will have their own happenings for colonials, half cents, and cents. Expect to see some exceptional coins and have fun talking to other collectors with similar interests to your own.

The JR News, the weekly online issue of our newsletter, is again up and running. Richard Meaney is our editor and if you would like to receive the weekly e-newsletter please send him your email address at Richard.meaney@us.army.mil. He will be happy to add you to the list of recipients. Those of you who are already receiving the newsletter are encouraged to send Richard something for inclusion in the communication.

During the annual meeting at the Boston ANA the current slate of officers were elected to remain in their posts for another year. You can reference the officers and their contact information on the inside front cover of the journal or on the website [www.jrcs.org](http://www.jrcs.org).

The recipient of the Jules Reiver Literary Award was announced by Secretary Crain. Edgar Souders again garnered enough votes for his article **Capped Bust Half Dollar Secrets; Broken Legend and Number Punches** from the membership to take home the award. Our congratulations and thanks go out to Edgar for another job well done educating the membership. I would also like to personally thank all the authors for their input for the journal. I cannot publish without your input, please consider sending something for inclusion in the next issue.

We also announced the first inductees to the newly formed John Reich Collectors Society Hall of Fame. We consider nominations for two potential members one from the veteran category (contributor before the advent of JRCS) and the modern category (contributions since the advent of JRCS). We are proud to proclaim that Dr. Daniel W. Valentine author of **The United States Half Dimes** in 1931 which was published as part of the American Numismatic Societies Numismatic monograph series. Our inductee for the modern category is Russell J. Logan, co-author of **Early United States Dimes, 1796-1837** and **Federal Half Dimes, 1792-1837**. He was also a founding member of JRCS, frequent contributor to the journal and winner of the Jules Reiver Literary Award. He was recognized as one of the leading researchers of Federal Silver Coins of the United States and a mentor too many of today's leading contributors to the hobby.

We are now soliciting nominations for consideration for the Hall of Fame inductions for next year. President Davis appointed Richard Meaney, W. David Perkins, James Matthews and Bradley Karoleff as members of the Hall of Fame committee for 2011. You can contact any of the members of the committee with your nomination(s) for consideration. The results of the committee voting will be announced at the next annual meeting in Chicago.

If anyone would like to volunteer to make the educational presentation at the annual meeting in Chicago you can contact the program chair, Dr. Glenn Peterson at [gpeters@tds.net](mailto:gpeters@tds.net). We are always looking for membership participation and input for the organization.

David Quint has made a generous offer to the membership. Due to the extreme shortage of the "dime book" **Early United States Dimes**, I have offered to make photocopies of the book for collectors interested in the series. (In cooperation with JRCS and the authors). A \$20 donation to JRCS will get the first 50 respondents a postpaid copy. Email David Quint at [dquint@bftg.com](mailto:dquint@bftg.com).

Now, dig into the current issue of the journal and enjoy the articles written for your enjoyment by other members of the organization. We would welcome articles from you concerning your collecting experiences, research, questions, or whatever else you would like to share. If you submit something you will also be eligible for the Jules Reiver Literary Award voting. You will also notice the announcement following the editor's notes requesting the membership's input for the half dime census which will be presented in the next issue of the JR Journal. Please send your information to Steve Crain as soon as possible to be included in the half dime census.

### **NOTICE**

Half Dime Census information is now being solicited for inclusion  
in the next issue of the **John Reich Journal**.

Please email your complete inventory listing  
(Including ALL duplicates and die states)  
of your 1792, Draped Bust, Flowing Hair, and Capped Bust half dimes,  
or any questions to:

Stephen Crain at [mrhalfdime@aol.com](mailto:mrhalfdime@aol.com)

*Or, mail hard copies to:*

**Stephen A. Crain**  
**PO Box 1680**  
**Windham, ME 04062**

Please respond promptly to ensure inclusion of your collection in this Census.



# **A Great Month: Acquisition of Two Rare Capped Bust Half Dimes**

**Richard Meaney**

In late February 2010, I learned from Jim Matthews that Stack's would be selling at a June 2010 auction a raw 1835 half dime attributed as an LM-12. This coin represented the third known example of the most recently-discovered die marriage in the Capped Bust Half Dime series. I did not have one in my set (at the time, I was missing both the 1835 LM-12 and 1833 LM-5 die marriages, along with the 1829 LM-6.1 and 1832 LM-9.2 remarriages), so I started to give serious consideration to entering a competitive bid for the coin. I had to first figure out how to raise the money to back up the kind of bid I thought it would take to win the coin.

During the Spring, I was browsing the Heritage Auction Galleries web site and noticed in the "coming soon" category of Capped Bust Half Dimes a coin cataloged simply as "1832 H10C AU58 NGC." Further study of the images caused my pulse to quicken, since the coin turned out to be an 1832 LM-9.2. I knew of no more than three other specimens extant of this die remarriage (the Logan-McCloskey plate coin, graded as "XF-45, very lightly cleaned with bright silver surfaces and very minor abrasions" by Bowers and Merena in 2002; a VF-XF coin, apparently problem-free, that sold on ebay a few years ago; and possibly a low grade piece mentioned to me recently by a fellow collector). The imminent availability of this coin, in addition to the 1835 LM-12, made me decide that I needed to embark on a vigorous fundraising campaign if I hoped to compete in both auctions.

For the past few years, I had been assembling a type set of PCGS coins in older PCGS holders (commonly referred to as "rattler holders" and "old green holders"). I turned to this type set as the solution to my need for funds for these auctions. The set had more than fifty coins in it. I sold some directly to fellow collectors and sold a chunk of the set (about 20 coins) to a dealer that often features older PCGS holders in inventory. A month's worth of determined selling efforts resulted in enough cash on hand that I felt comfortable that I could compete in the auctions for both coins.

I secured the services of a specialist dealer who would be at the Stack's auction on June 15, 2010. He viewed the coin in hand and gave me his opinion. He and I discussed the bidding strategy to use and I decided on my top price. Shortly after the auction closed, I got a call from my dealer/agent to tell me the good news: I won the coin and my agent

didn't have to bid my top price! I now had a wait of 26 days until the Heritage auction of the 1832 LM-9.2 half dime.

As the Heritage auction approached, I determined my top bid. I decided that I would enter my top bid during the "Heritage Live" event, rather than during the period of internet-only bidding that precedes the auction. I figured other sharp-eyed specialists would be bidding against me, but I didn't want to attract any "extra attention" with an extraordinarily-high bid early for a "measly AU" half dime. I even arranged for the assistance of my brother for bidding. Having had my internet service crash at an inopportune time in the past, I couldn't afford to be without a backup plan in case an internet outage happened again. So my brother was standing by at his computer (more than fifteen hundred miles away) to bid for me, just in case! Fortunately, I was able to enter my bid without difficulty. My max bid was in and now I just had to wait. An hour or two after the auction, I checked the results to see if I had won the coin. I was very excited to learn that I won the coin and amazed at how inexpensively the coin had become mine (it wasn't a cherrypick, by any means, but it sure was well below what I would consider "retail" for the die marriage and grade)!

In the space of less than one month, I was able to add two coins to my collection that I had expected I might NEVER find. To add to the coolness factor of the entire experience, I even had a chunk of change left over from the sale of my type set...giving me a good head start on raising money for the next rarity that becomes available.

After receiving both coins, I sent them for grading and authentication by PCGS. PCGS graded my 1835 LM-12 as VF-35 and the 1832 LM-9.2 as AU-58. Images of each coin accompany this article.

The only downside to this story is that by selling off my type set, I have really narrowed my focus to Capped Bust Half Dimes. I used to be able to say I was the proud owner of a type set, full of neat things like a Bust Quarter, Barber Half, Half Cent, Seated Dollar, Bust Dollar, and so many more. That's no longer possible. My type coin collection gave this half dime specialist two "opportunities of a lifetime", and for that I am thankful!





*Figure 1. 1832 LM-9.2*



*Figure 2. 1835 LM-12*





# **An 1802 Half Dime Pedigree Bites The Dust**

**David J. Davis**

When the book *Federal Half Dimes 1792 – 1837* was published by Russ Logan and John McCloskey, they included the information I had gathered on the “1802 HALF DIME APPEARANCES AND SALES.” Of the 167 sales and appearances noted between 1859 and 1998, there were surprisingly enough four auction sales where the 1802 half dime was multiple-lotted. One of them was the Henrie E. Buck sale by C.M. Leonard on 3/11/1913. Lot 16 included the 1802 with a large group of half dimes from 1794 – 1872, wherein each coin was described by date with its own estimated price, total \$645.50. The 1802 was described as, “1802 Very good, one of the rarest U.S. coins, one sold in 1908 at \$730. . . . \$500.”

For a lot of years I have been trying to buy a copy of every catalogue that listed either an 1802 half dime or 1823/2 quarter. I am only missing about a dozen for each coin. The “Buck” catalogue has always eluded me, and the little information I have about it came from a photocopy of the 1802 half dime catalogue listing provided by Dan Hamelburg. Often when I looked at my want list of catalogues, I wondered about the fact that Martin Gengerke’s 8th Edition, 1990, of his American Numismatic Auctions listed only one auction catalogue issued by C.M. Leonard. It was the Henrie E. Buck sale. Who were these guys? I was unable to locate a price realized for the sale and never learned anything more until Dave Hirt posted a request for a copy of the PRL on the E-Sylum (An electronic publication of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society), Volume 13, Number 37, September 12, 2010.

Dave gave me more information when he posted,

“The auction is catalogued in the most curious way that I have ever seen. Many of the coins are grouped into large lots. However, within the lot, each coin has its own line with description and price. The prices were then added up to give the estimate for the total lot. For example, his lot #4 (Large Cents) covers 5 pages, with the estimated at \$927.40.

“This was followed by lot #5 that had his 2nd best, or duplicate set of Large Cents. He followed this format through the whole U.S. series, first listing his best set, then his duplicate set.

“This was a great collection? It included a 1793 Liberty Cap cent described as gem unc., an 1802 Half Dime, and other major rarities, including many 19th century proof and uncirculated coins. I can not imagine why a collection like this was sold at a country auction.”

That was followed by a second post,

“I believe that I have found more information on the Buck collection. There was a sale of his estate in 1936. Many of the same coins listed in the 1913 sale are in the later one, so it looks like many (or most) of the coins were withdrawn. The two stars of the original sale, the 1793 Liberty Cap cent, and the 1802 Half Dime were both in the 1936 sale. LISTED AS ELECTROS. The 1936 sale DID contain many other rare coins.”

After reading what Dave wrote, my first thought was that I had yet another catalogue to add to my want list. But, before I could respond with my own post for more information on the sale, serendipity was on my side. Just days later I received a copy of Fred Lake's 104th Mail Bid Sale, September 28, 2010. And, amazingly enough, the Henrie Edmund Buck catalogue by Dr. J.M. Henderson, Apr. 4/1936, was listed as Lot A58. I E-mailed in my bid and won the lot.

The catalogue for the Buck estate contained about 2000 numismatic items including, U.S. coins from a 1793 cent to \$20 gold, Confederate Currency, Foreign Gold, Foreign Crowns, Copper and Bronze Coins, books, etc. listed in 1445 lots. Lot 1105 reads, “1802 – A fine example of someone's handicraft in producing an electro of an altered 1800 half dime.” I wonder what happened to it? Either way I no longer have to worry about where the Buck 1802 half dime fitted into any pedigree. The sale was held in conjunction with the Ohio State Numismatic Society Inc. convention in Columbus, Ohio. Now I have to see if anyone has a prices realized for that sale. A price list of the sale was offered for 50¢ if ordered and prepaid before the sale.

It must have been quite an ordeal to sit through the sale of that many lots in one session. It would be very interesting to know what kind of a turn out there was for a convention held during the recession, as well as how much the lots realized.



The most informative thing, included on the inside front cover, was a short biography;

“HENRIE EDMUND BUCK

1849 - - 1929

Mr. Buck was one of our “old time” collectors. He started collecting just after the Civil War. For business reasons he had to suspend his collecting for some years. He was associated with railroad companies, and later was the promoter, builder and operator of one of the first interurban traction lines in Ohio, serving as superintendent. Following this he was elected mayor of the city of Delaware, where he was born, educated, and passed his entire life.

He not only collected numismatic specimens, but was also an ardent collector and student of archaeological, philatelic and historical items, forming very complete collections of each. He also collected antiques – furniture, china, glass, prints, etc. and assembled representative collections in all his hobbies. Mr. Buck was elected First Vice President of The American Numismatic Association at the convention in Columbus in 1907. He declined higher offices. He served as president of The Ohio Numismatic Society. Was trustee of The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society. Organized and was president of The Olentangy chapter, Delaware, O., of the S[ons]. A[merican]. R[evolutions]. Was president of the Ohio Society of the S.A.R. in 1914.

It was Mr. Buck who presented my name [J.M. Henderson] for membership in the A.N.A. That was the beginning of a friendship that continued until his demise.”

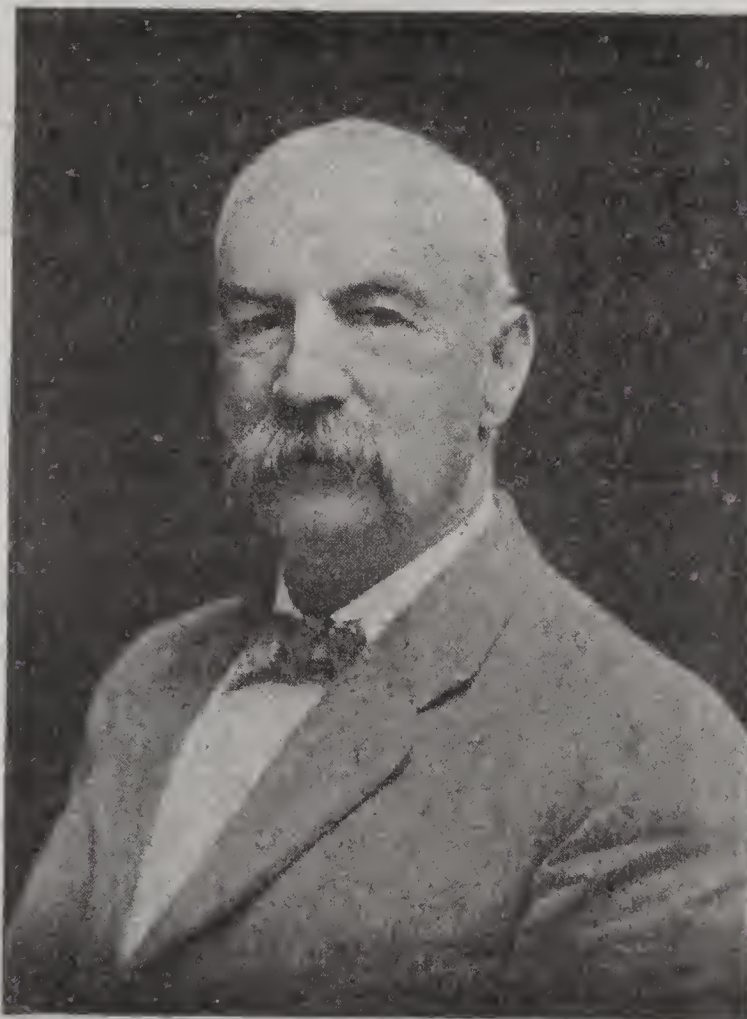
The mention of Buck’s election to office in the A.N.A. led me to the 1907 volume of *The Numismatist* and later editions, and I learned a lot more about Buck and Dr. Henderson. When he was elected First Vice President of the A.N.A. (for 1908) at the 1907 convention, in Columbus, OH, he was President of the Ohio State Numismatic Society. Mr. Buck and Dr. J.M. Henderson, who was then Secretary of the Columbus Numismatic Society, are each pictured separately as well as in the convention photo, in the October – November, 1907, issue of *The Numismatist*.

As stated above, Mr. Buck declined to serve a second term and was replaced by Dr. Henderson as First Vice President for 1909, at the 1908 Montreal, Quebec A.N.A.

Convention. Dr. Henderson was later elected to serve as President of the A.N.A. for the years 1910 and 1911.

Reading through the convention coverage for the years 1907 – 1912 taught me a lot more about the early years of the A.N.A., but that story will have to wait for another time. I need to end my story of the 1802 half dime that wasn't.

THE NUMISMATIST



HON. HENRI E. BUCK.  
President Ohio State Numismatic Society.

The Corresponding Secretary was then called upon to read his report,



# Capped Bust Half Dime Cud Rarity

## a Specialist's Opinion

Richard Meaney

In two excellent articles in the **John Reich Journal** (references 1 and 2), Stephen A. Crain and Dr. Glenn Peterson identified a total of 25 known cuds in the Capped Bust half dime series. The authors provided images of an example of each of the known cuds and offered a descriptive assessment of the rarity of each cud. Like most readers, I was pleased to see an “inventory” of known cuds presented so that I could assess my own collection against what’s available and figure out which cuds I lacked. Many readers, myself included, likely started to wonder if a numeric assessment of rarity could be applied to cuds. It seems that most JRCS members and other collectors like, or at least use, the Sheldon rarity scale; therefore, I thought it would be great if I could apply the Sheldon scale to cuds on Capped Bust half dimes. A quick review of this rarity scale should suffice (for more in-depth information on the rarity scale, consult reference 3):

Rarity	Approximate Number of Examples Thought to Exist
R-1	1,000+
R-2	501-1,000
R-3	201-500
R-4	76-200
R-5	31-75
R-6	13-30
R-7	4-12
R-8	1-3

My attempt here is to classify each cud’s rarity using the Sheldon scale. I have made each assessment of rarity based upon my reading (especially the **John Reich Journal**), my evaluation of public auctions by well-known numismatic auction companies, my participation in numismatic-themed internet forums, interaction and discussion with fellow numismatists, and my search on eBay for half dimes. The reader would benefit from understanding some important points or biases I considered as I assigned rarity ratings for each cud:

1. These estimates are mine. They are not based solely on counted/observed specimens.
2. I do not necessarily agree with the published rarity ratings for each die marriage.



- 3. I recognize that Logan and McCloskey, in **Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837**, did not assign rarity ratings to specific die remarriages – instead they lumped all examples of a die remarriage into one rarity rating for the entire die marriage.
- 4. For sake of consistency, I will accept the categorization of “internal cuds” (as used by Crain and Peterson) as cuds worthy of consideration for this article. Many purists state that a cud must involve a crack that meets the rim of the coin, but arguing that point is not the purpose of this article.
- 5. I thought it best to avoid assignment of a plus or minus sign to each rarity estimate.
- 6. Estimated rarity ratings do not make a differentiation between retained and full cuds.
- 7. I favored conservative estimates of rarity in cases where evidence and opinion were not conclusive.

Die Marriage/Remarriage	Description	Estimated Rarity
1829 LM-3/V2	over IT of UNITED	R-7
1829 LM-7.3/V4c	ER of AMERICA	R-5
1829 LM-18/V1	rim to stars 3 and 4, back to rim	R-8
1830 LM-1.2/V10d	MER of AMERICA	R-5
1830 LM-5/V13	Rim above stars 5 and 6	R-7
1831 LM-1.3/V6d	over NIT of UNITED	R-4
1831 LM-2/V7	over R in AMERICA	R-3
1831 LM-3/V2	rim to stars 2, 3, 4, 5, back to rim	R-7
1832 LM-4/V12	rim to cap to rim on obverse	R-5
1832 LM-5/V8e	TED STA of UNITED STATES	R-3
1832 LM-10.4/V13	TES OF A of STATES OF AMERICA	R-6
1833 LM-1/V7c	ED STATE of UNITED STATES	R-5
1833 LM-3.5/V4d	NITE of UNITED	R-7
1833 LM-4.3/V3c	top of scroll to OF A of OF AMERICA	R-6
1833 LM-6/V8	small joining of CA in AMERICA	R-6
1833 LM-8/V2	ITED STA of UNITED STATES	R-7
1834 LM-1/V5	over ED of UNITED	R-5
1835 LM-1/V2	ITE of UNITED	R-5
1835 LM-3/V3c	across CA of AMERICA	R-2
1835 LM-4/V11	over UNI of UNITED	R-5
1835 LM-5.2/V10	over front of cap on obverse	R-5
1835 LM-5.2/V10	D STATE of UNITED STATES	R-8
1835 LM-9.2/V6	two cuds covering TED and STATE	R-6
1836 LM-1.2/V5	double cud covering TED STATE	R-4
1836 LM-3/V4	over A2 (first A in AMERICA)	R-4

Here are images of a few of the rarer cuds in the Capped Bust Half Dime series, from the author's collection:



*1831 LM-3 with Obverse Cud*



*1830 LM-5 with Obverse Cud*



*1833 LM-3.5 with Reverse Cud*

#### References:

1. Crain, Stephen A. and Dr. Glenn Peterson, "Capped Bust Half Dimes with Cuds," John Reich Journal Volume 16, Issue 2, February 2005, pages 4-10.
2. Peterson, Dr. Glenn and Stephen A. Crain, "Another Capped Bust Half Dime with a Cud," John Reich Journal Volume 17, Issue 3, December 2006, pages 14-16.
3. Sheldon, William H., Penny Whimsy, Copyright 1958.





# **2011 Early Silver Dollar Census**

**W. David Perkins, NLG**

This survey marks the sixth early dollar census published since the first issue of the *John Reich Journal* was published in January 1986.

The first early dollar census was published in the October 1990 issue of the Journal. The most recent early dollar census was published in the John Reich Journal, Volume 18 / Issue 3, December 2007.

*[Back issues with these previous early dollar censuses (and other articles) may still be available. For availability and information regarding back issues, please contact Richard Meaney, JRCS. Contact information inside front cover.]*

## **Grading for the 2011 Survey**

As in the past, JRCS has always used the numerical grades as sent in by the member participants for the early dollar census. Some coins included in the census are “raw” and some coins are “slabbed.” Early dollars with “slab grades” include examples from at least six different grading services. The grades as provided by the owners are the grades that are included for the JRCS Census.

Over the last few years we have seen the advent of new add-ons to the grades on certified coins. Examples include both CAC stickers and the new PCGS “Plus Grades.” These designations are not noted in the early dollar census but were included in a number of the submissions.

## **Rarity Ratings**

The rarity ratings in this census are mine. There are no changes from the last census to the rarity ratings for any die marriages.

As always, I am interested in our members’ feedback on the rarity ratings.

## **Analysis and Comments**

More than fifteen members sent in their censuses. The top 15 collections submitted for the 2010 early dollar survey are included here, with the other collections being included in the totals for each die marriage (PCS), the average grade (AVG) and the highest grade listed (MAX).



As was the case in the last census, for 2010 we have added some new collector's collections and we have "lost" a few. Bill Luebke sold his extensive collection (in January 2007) of 108 different die marriages via public auction right after the 2007 Census was published. The sale of Bill's collection helped others "fill a few holes" and allowed a few collectors to "pick up a rare die marriage or two." In addition, many specimens from the late Jules Reiver's collection have found new homes in JRCS collector's collections.

The other sale of note was the April 16-18, 2008 public auction by Heritage Auction Galleries of The Queller Family Collection of Silver Dollars 1794-1935. This sale took place in Rosemount, Illinois. The Queller collection was started around the 1960s and many of the approximately 100 early dollars had been off the market for decades. The collection had many scarce and rare die marriages, along with a fair number of condition census examples. A number of JRCS collector's took advantage of this sale to fill holes and upgrade their collections.

As in the 2005 and 2007 surveys, I have chosen not to include duplicates in the total "number of specimens." Most of the duplicates were of die marriages with rarity ratings from R-1 to R-5. Including duplicates tends to lower both the average grade (for die marriages with duplicates) and to lower the overall grade of the primary collection containing these duplicates. It is important to include them for purposes of determining rarity ratings, and this was done.

For the 2011 Census, we have four collections with 100 or more die marriages, followed by collections with 91, 89 and 86 die marriages respectively. We have two collections with an average grade above AU-50. Two other collections are close to this level, with average grades of 49 and 47 respectively.

The census includes only one examples of 1795 B-8, BB-15, a tough R-7 marriage with only one decent and problem free example known to me (note this particular specimen changed hands from the 2007 census). There are five specimens each of 1795 B-10 and B-11. Only one of the three known 1795 B-16 Dollars is listed in this census. As in 2007, all three of the known 1795 B-20, BB-16 Dollars are present in the census.

For 1796, we continue to have two examples of R-8 1796 B-3, BB-62 in the survey. We also have two of the three known examples of 1796 B-6, BB-64 (R-8) included.

As many members, know, the “Dollars of 1798” are a favorite of mine. Three of the five known examples of 1798 B-18 are included in this census, with the finest known example grading VF-30. All of the other examples known exist in grades ranging from AG to VG. All three known examples of 1798 B-33 are again included in this survey.

In the 2007 Census I noted,

Amazingly, this census has nine examples of the high R-6 and very popular 1798 B-5 Dollar! And it includes nine specimens of the tough “Knob Nine” 1798 B-32 (including the two finest known specimens).

This 2011 Census notes 10 examples of each of these two rare die marriages! A very nice and new specimen of 1798 B-32 turned up in 2010 and is included in this census.

This specimen had been in a date set for many decades where it sat unattributed.

I would like to caution the reader to NOT infer too much from the "Condition Census" represented by this survey. The average grades are skewed to a higher number due to the limited number of coins in the survey and the desire to own the best coin available.

Also, 118 die marriages is considered a complete set. There are 121 die marriages known including the proof only issues of 1801, 1802, and 1803.

Enjoy studying the 2011 Early Dollar Census!

*[I would like to thank Steve Herrman for his help editing the 2011 Early Dollar Census.]*

Rarity	Approximate Number of Examples Thought to Exist
R-1	1,000+
R-2	501-1,000
R-3	201-500
R-4	76-200
R-5	31-75
R-6	13-30
R-7	4-12
R-8	1-3

Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	1242	951	101	429	1153	018	1054	897	165	1072	893	729	013	716	PCS	AVG	MAX
1794	1	1	4	40	58		12			12									5	30	58
1795	1	21	2	40	58	25	45	12		15	20			3					8	27	58
	2	20	3	40	53	15	15	12			10	30			40				8	27	53
	3	11	5	58	58	20		8			10			20					6	29	58
	4	14	3	45	58	15	12	4				35							6	28	58
	5	27	1	55	62	20	35			35	12	35	30	6					10	30	62
	6	25	3	45	55	30	35					25							5	38	55
	7	18	3	40	58	15	30												4	36	58
	8	15	7	40															1	40	40
	9	13	4	45	58	15	35			45									5	40	58
	10	22	7	40	61	25						15		40					5	36	61
	11	12	7	40	45	35				40		40							5	40	45
	12	26	5	45	45	25	20	15		15	30					35			8	29	45
	13	24	5	50	62	35	25			40			30					30	7	39	62
	14	51	2	50	58	30	45	40	55	50	10								8	42	58
	15	52	2	60	61	20	40	25	25	55	45			3	30	40			11	37	61
	16	23	8	40															1	40	40
	18	17	8	58															1	58	58
	19	19	8	6															1	6	6
	20	16	8	10	40						15								3	22	40
	21	28	8	10															1	10	10
	22	29	8	20															1	20	20
1796	1	66	4	45	58	12	35		50	45	25			20					9	38	58
	2	63	4	53	45	12	20	15	45		35								7	32	53
	3	62	8	53	25														2	39	53
	4	61	3	50	55	30	30	20		40	25				50				9	39	55
	5	65	4	50	55	20	35	45	40	45	35	40	15	40					11	38	55
	6	64	8	35										20					2	28	35
1797	1	73	3	63	58	35	40	30	50	40	40		50		45				11	42	63
	2	72	4	50	55	30	20	15	45	40		20							8	34	55
	3	71	2	61	58	35	35	45	35	50									7	46	61
1798	1	82	3	60	58	12	30	12	58	45	12	45							9	37	60
	2	81	3	63	58	20	40	12	45	55					30				8	40	63
	3	94	5	63	50	30	30	12	58	40		40	45	50					10	42	63
	4	92	5	63	45	35	40	45	40	40	45	50	55						10	46	63
	5	93	6	53	50	12	12	55	25	20			53	40			40		10	36	55
	6	96	3	55	55	40	45		45	50									6	48	55
	7	95	5	45	45	12	30	10	25	15		45	45	20					10	29	45
	8	125	2	55	55	25	55	45	45	45			58	35		40			10	46	58
	9	121	5	55	58	30	45	40	55	40	12	55	45						10	44	58
	10	109	5	62	50	15	20	15	53	25	30	50	50						10	37	62



Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	1242	951	101	429	1153	018	1054	897	165	1072	893	729	013	716	PCS	AVG	MAX
1798	11	111	3	55	50	20	15	25	53	35			45				20		9	35	55
	12	120	4	45	64	20	45	8	35	12	35	50		15					10	33	64
	13	108	3	58	55	35	45	25		55	40								7	45	58
	14	122	3	55	58	25	53	30	53	50	35		45	40					10	44	58
	15	112	3	61	58	30	45	45	55	25	40		50						9	45	61
	16	110	6	55	50	35	20	25	40	20		45	30	35			50		11	37	55
	17	101	5	53	53	20	10	40	25	20		53	55						9	37	55
	18	103	7	6					4				30						3	13	30
	19	106	5	50	53	20	30	30	55	40		50	58						9	43	58
	20	102	5	55	58	45	30	15	50	45	20	55	55						10	43	58
	21	107	5	55	58	35	58	35	45	50		50		10					9	44	58
	22	104	4	55	61	40	20	40	55										6	45	61
	23	105	3	55	58	40	40	35	58	53	45		40						9	47	58
	24	124	2	55	55	35	55	40	53	20		45	55		55				11	48	55
	25	123	4	50	55	20	30	45	61	45	40		55						9	45	61
	26	114	5	58	55	12		35	45	35	35	40	61	40					10	42	61
	27	113	2	55	55	25	55	20	50	40									7	43	55
	28	118	3	55	55	35	45	30	50	50		45	55						10	45	55
	29	119	4	50	50	25	35	40	50	8		45	45						9	39	50
	30	116	5	58	53	20	35	20	45	50		58	58						9	44	58
	31	115	5	58	53	30	35	45	50	57	35	45	45						10	45	58
	32	91	7	40	61	15	20		25	40	3	40	55	35					10	33	61
	33	117	8	50									53	35					3	46	53
1799	1	142	4	50	63	20	25	15	53		35		50			50			9	40	63
	2	143	4	55	55	12	45	25	58	55		50							8	45	58
	3	141	3	61	62	30	45	25	55	50									7	47	62
	4	153	4	55	53	25	35	20	50	53		50							8	44	58
	5	157	2	62	58	20	53	30	58	50	35								8	46	62
	6	162	4	58	63	20	30	25	50	55	40								8	43	63
	7	156	4	58	55	25	25	35	55		25	50	45						9	41	58
	8	165	3	62	62	20	45	40	58	50	45	53							9	48	62
	9	166	1	58	58	20	35	30	61	50	25					55	20		10	41	61
	10	163	2	61	58	30	30	45	55	45	35			15					9	42	61
	11	161	3	62	63	45	40	45	55	55	30			3		45			10	44	63
	12	160	3	62	55	12	30	40	55	50	15								8	40	62
	13	151	5	58	50	30	25	25	45	50	45								8	41	58
	14	167	3	58	58	25	40		53	53	20								7	44	58
	15	152	3	45	64	30	25	40	55	40			53						8	44	64
	16	158	2	64	61	25	40	45	50	53	20								8	46	64
	17	164	2	50	63	15	40		55	53	20	50							8	43	63
	18	154	5	58	58	35	45	45	55	45	20	40							9	45	58

Year	B#	BB#	R#	310	1242	951	101	429	1153	018	1054	897	165	1072	893	729	013	716	PCS	AVG	MAX
1799	19	155	5	55	55	25	35	30	53	50	35	45							9	43	55
	21	169	3	50	58	30	30	45	45	45	40								8	43	58
	22	168	5	45	50	40	30	45	50	50	30	40		15					10	40	50
	23	159	4	61	58	55	53	40	53	45					40		40		9	49	61
1800	1	181	5	53	55	15	25	30	40	40	35	35		55					10	38	55
	2	182	6	55	45	25	25	25	45	30	45	40							9	37	55
	3	183	5	45	35	8	30	25	53										6	33	53
	4	186	4	61	55	25	8	30	50										6	38	61
	5	189	5	58	55	40	20	35	58	45	20		45						9	42	58
	8	188	4	55	55	25	45	45		50	40	45							8	45	55
	10	190	3	55	58	40	53	40	58		45								7	50	58
	11	191	5	53	53	15	35	30	45	20				15					8	33	53
	12	184	3	55	55	50	45	30	50	50	40			30					9	45	55
	13/18	193	4	55	58	30	53		45	53	40	55	53		35	40			11	47	58
	14	194	3	55	55	35	55	30	50	53	20								9	41	55
	15	195	4	50	58	15	30	20	45	50	12	50							9	37	58
	16	187	2	50	64	20	45	30	45	53							20		8	41	64
	17	196	1	58	62	35	30	45		55	30	45							8	45	62
	19	192	2	55	61	45	30	30		50	10	50	35						9	41	61
	20	185	6	53	45	8	25	25	50		45	40		8					9	33	53
1801	1	211	3	50	58	35	45	35	55	50	45							20	9	44	58
	2	212	3	58	63	20	20	45	50	55	45	50						20	10	43	58
	3	213	3	50	62	15	50		55	50	45			20	40			15	10	40	62
	4	214	4	55	55	30	35	8	53									25	7	37	55
	5	301	7																		
1802	1	231	4	55	58	12		20	50		30	45							7	39	58
	2	233	4	50	53	20	15	15	40		35	40							8	34	53
	3	234	3	50	61	30	15	40	50	50	45								8	43	61
	4	232	4	58	55	12	25	30	50	45	35								8	39	58
	5	242	5	55	58	30	40	45	45			53				40			8	46	58
	6	241	1	58	53	35	35	40	58	50					35				8	46	58
	8	302	7																		
	9	235	5	58	53	30	15	20		40	12	45		25					9	33	58
1803	1	251	4	58	53	25	45	50	40			40			40				8	44	58
	3	256	6	50	55	25	40	30	45	12		40					50		9	39	55
	4	254	3	58	58	20	30		50		15								6	39	58
	5	252	3	61	58	35	50	45	55					20		40			8	46	61
	6	255	2	62	58	40	55	30	55	45	35	45							9	47	62
	7	303	7																		
Die Marriage Total				118	109	106	102	91	89	86	66	51	35	29	11	9	7	5	121 Known		
Average Grade				52	56	26	34	30	49	42	30	44	47	25	40	43	34	22			





# **New Die Marriage for 1827 Dimes Discovered**

**John W. McCloskey**

While collecting coins from the Seated dime series in the 1960s I noticed that nice circulated coins from the earlier Capped Bust series were often available at shows that I attended. I therefore decided to expand my collecting interests to this earlier dime series in 1968. At first I was simply interested in finding nice examples of the different dates from 1809 to 1837. I chose nice original pieces that seemed to show the features of the Capped Bust design that I was just beginning to appreciate. I would try to buy an example from the series at every show I attended and before long I had a nice selection of coins from the series.

Over a period of two years I began to upgrade the coins for some of the dates and discovered a completely new world of collecting. While studying the coins I had purchased I soon recognized that the dies were individually hand engraved and that the lettering, stars, date digits and other features were uniquely placed into each die. I knew that there were large differences in the mintages for the various years and I began to wonder just how many dies were used to strike coins of different dates.

In expanding my collection I would write down what I thought were some of the key features on the coins that I owned and then compared these notes with coins I saw at shows. When I was convinced that one of the dies used on a piece was different from what I already owned, I would buy it. I would then take the new piece home and record enough die markers on the coin so that I could distinguish it from other pieces that I might find in the future. This was the procedure that I was using when I discovered the 1829 curled base 2 dime in 1973.

The individual placement of the letters in the legend UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the denomination 10C made it easier to distinguish the reverse dies for most of the dates in the series. At a local show I examined a nice circulated 1829 dime and compared the lettering and the denomination on the reverse with the descriptions of the eight die marriages that I already owned for this date. None of the descriptions matched the piece I was studying so I purchased it. I took the coin home and placed all nine of my 1829 dimes in a row with the reverse up. I studied a feature on my new purchase and then compared its placement to that of the other pieces. I quickly found differences in the placement of design features between my new purchase and all of the other pieces in my collection. It was confirmed that I had identified a new die marriage for the 1829 dime. I then turned all of the pieces over and started to compare design features on the



obverse with my new purchase. It wasn't long before I made a startling discovery! I noticed that the digit 2 on my new purchase had a curled base while my other eight coins of this date had a 2 with a flat base. I was fascinated by this new find but I didn't really appreciate the significance of this discovery until many years later.

While examining a Bust dime at shows I often studied my notes in an attempt to identify the die marriage of a piece under consideration. Some dealers would ask me if I knew David Davis, another collector who was also buying Bust dimes by die marriage. It wasn't long before we met and began exchanging information on what we had observed over the last few years. I was soon introduced to Russ Logan and all three of us would travel to shows and exchange information on anything new that we had observed since our last session. Attribution became much easier when Russ Logan developed his scroll ending matrix charts that eliminated the need to read verbal descriptions of the dies for any specific year. During the first few years of this work we would find a new die marriage at almost every show we attended but as the years went by new discoveries became much harder to find. We discussed publication of this research and began the preparation of a manuscript that would eventually become the reference text **Early United States Dimes 1796 - 1837** that was published in 1984.

David Davis, Russ Logan and I had been attributing Capped Bust dimes from around the country for almost 15 years when our reference text was published. We attended many local shows in the Midwest as well as the Central States Conventions, and by 1970 were attending the ANA Conventions that were held around the country. I remember buying a beautiful 1825 dime in AU condition at the ANA Convention in 1970 and recognized that I would have to expand my search if I hoped to see a higher percentage of the pieces that were available for sale at that time.

We had identified, described and illustrated examples of the 122 known die marriages from the Capped Bust dime series from 1809 to 1837 by the time our reference text was published in 1984. The last die marriage that was added to the list was the 1824 JR-2 dime, a big surprise because only one other die marriage was known for this date before this last discovery. Because of the extensive research that we had done in preparation of this manuscript, we knew that we had seen examples of most of the die marriages from the series. However, we also recognized that it was inevitable that a few others would be identified over time, as long hidden pieces would eventually surface and be

recognized as additions to the list of known die marriages. I would therefore like to report that this prediction has come to pass, as a new die marriage for the 1827 dime has just recently been reported and verified.

During November 2010, I received a call from Bradley Karoleff asking me to accompany him to the home of a collector who had reported the purchase of an 1827 dime that was an example of a die marriage not among the thirteen listed for this date. He reported that his new purchase had the obverse of the 1827 JR-1 die marriage and the reverse of the 1827 JR-2 die marriage. We were asked to confirm the identification of the dies on the coin and to confirm that the piece was indeed a genuine specimen from the United States Mint in Philadelphia.

There are 10 known reverse dies for the 1827 dime and Reverse B seen on 1827 JR-2 dimes has a scroll ending that is unique for this date. For this reverse the scroll ends below the right edge of the right upright of the M in AMERICA, further right than on any of the other reverses known for this issue. Another key feature is the low S2 in STATES. The letter S2 is placed well below the letter E2 on its left, with the top edge of E2 well above the top of S2. Then there is the broken right serif at the base of the 1 in the denomination 10C, an easily seen defect that is characteristic of this reverse. The discovery coin also has the die defect along the right edge of the wing to the left of the C in AMERICA, a defect seen on examples of the 1827 JR-2 dime. Further confirmation of this reverse is seen in the series of rust pits over the scroll between the D in UNITED and the S1 in STATES. These rust pits are identical to those seen on examples of the 1827 JR-2 dime. Common die markers conclusively indicate that the new discovery coin was struck from the Reverse B die of this year. One interesting point is that the letters UN in UNITED are not joined at the top on the discovery coin, indicating that it was struck prior to 1827 JR-2 coins.

There are 9 known obverse dies for the 1827 dime and Obverse 1 is the only one with recutting at the left base of the 7 in the date. The date is also lower in the field and further left than the placement for Obverse 2, as seen on 1827 JR-2 coins. The 1 in the date on Obverse 1 is much closer to the dentils below than to the drapery above when compared to the position of this digit on Obverse 2. The 7 in the date also extends beyond the left edge of the curl above on Obverse 1 while it does not extend over this far on Obverse 2. S9 is clearly rotated counterclockwise on Obverse 1 while it is not rotated on Obverse 2.



All of the die markers on the discovery coin indicate that it was struck from Obverse 1 making it an example of a new die pair that was not previously known for this date.

It is known that 1827 JR-2 coins have an extra tiny reed on the collar over the E3 in AMERICA. We therefore held the discovery coin side by side to a JR-2 coin with the same reverse to see if the collars matched. We found that there were weaknesses in the reeding in various places along the edge of the discovery coin as well as on the JR-2 coin.

Unfortunately there was a weakness in the reeding along the edge of the discovery coin in the area over the letter E3. The presence of the tiny extra reed in the collar could therefore not be verified. However, the reeding was very clear in many of the same places along the edge of the two pieces making it possible to verify that the reeding gauge matched up on this pair of coins. It was also verified that the reeding styles matched up with identical wide and narrow features in the reeds along the edge of both coins in identical places relative to the reverse die.

I must conclude that the discovery coin is a genuine 1827 dime struck from Obverse 1 and Reverse B using a collar that was known to have been used at the Philadelphia Mint.

Since this die marriage has not been previously reported, I therefore declare that this marriage be designated as 1827 JR-14 in all future publications describing this discovery.



# **1827 JR 14 Bust Dime Confirmed**

**Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG**

This hobby is fraught with rumors of new discoveries that eventually prove to be “fools gold” under closer inspection. There were rumblings of a new Capped Bust Dime die marriage discovery floating around the inner circles of the collecting community. When I first heard them, I was skeptical but wanted to find out more. I eventually found that the coin resided in my home state of Ohio so I contacted the owner. I knew the individual and had a high degree of confidence in his ability to attribute the coin but was concerned that it might be a new Chinese counterfeit. Many of the new counterfeits coming out of China are VERY convincing. I wondered if he may have been the victim of a counterfeit that had been produced from mismatched dies in an illicit production room in Shanghai.

I corresponded with the owner and received images of his coin via email and agreed that he had attributed the coin correctly. The only way to be sure of the authenticity of the coin would be to travel to see it in person. I contacted John McCloskey, co- author of **Early United States Dimes** and arranged to pick him up for the trip to see the coin. We set out on our excursion with high hopes of confirming a new die marriage. The trip was filled with coin and golf stories to pass the time. We eventually arrived at our destination and the unveiling of the coin in question.

We were invited into the collector’s home. After short pleasantries, we delved into the examination of the coin. Upon first inspection the coin looked good to me. That doesn’t always hold true on closer examination, but it was a promising beginning. Confirmation of the obverse and reverse dies was easy. The 7 was clearly recut and the scroll position was easy to match to reverse B. The die defect at the outer edge of the eagle’s right wing was also easily seen. Now came the hard part, were the dies a product of the United States Mint in Philadelphia circa 1827, or were they the creation of a Chinese counterfeiter in the last couple of years?

Kirk Gorman, a noted dime collector and researcher, had been consulted before the trip regarding other die characteristics to examine for authentication. He has been doing a study of the edge dies used to create the reeding on the Bust dimes for the last few years. He had noted that there is a tiny reed opposite E3 on the collar die that would have been used to strike this coin. Unfortunately the reeding was indistinct in this area



which precluded using that as an authentication tool. We continued to compare the edge of the new coin to that of a JR2, attempting to match the reeding on the two coins. After close comparison we were able to confirm that the edge die used on both of these coins was the same, confirming the authenticity of the new coin!

We continued to examine the new coin to see if there was any other information that she could give us. There was some minor bulging between stars 1 and 2, as would be expected. Some star points are “bent” in a clockwise direction indicating that the die had been lapped. There is a scratch opposite stars 1 and 2 which will act as an identifying mark for this coin as the discovery piece. There are some minor rust pits evident on the reverse die by the existence of raised dots of metal around ED of UNITED. All of these small markers are what we expected to see from an authentic coin based on the emission order of the dies. Kirk had concluded that the emission order of the dies was:

**1823 JR-2** exhibiting a weak left leg of M caused by a defective letter punch

**1823 JR-3** with the same defect

**1827 JR-1** sharper stars 1-3

**1827 JR-14** dentil deterioration opposite stars 1-3, lapping indications represented by the bent star points and the lighter bulging at stars 1-3 which was minimized by the lapping. The M in AMERICA has now been repunched resulting in a strong left leg.

**1827 JR-2** exhibiting the strong left leg of M and a die crack connecting the upper right serif of U to the N in UNITED which is on all JR2's examined by Kirk.

These minor differences in the dies would be difficult to pickup on a counterfeit die made by the Chinese, but not impossible. The real key to the authentication was the rim. I have examined many of the new Chinese counterfeits and most seem to have very distinct reeding much like what is used on coins produced today. They are uniform and rectangular in shape. The machines are capable of extracting the coin from the collar after striking without difficulty. This was not the case in the early Philadelphia Mint. The reeds are a trapezoidal shape to facilitate the ejection from the primitive collars they were using. The collars were reeded in some way that did not produce identical reeds. Some were smaller than others or shaped slightly differently. This is what we were looking for on the coins. Reeds that matched side by side. The greatest difficulty

was in finding distinct reeds in exactly the same places on the coins. Many of the dimes have areas of indistinct or missing reeds as the collars were not engineered to be “tight” until 1828 with the introduction of the “closed collar” coins of the small size dimes. With diligent searching, we were able to eventually find some of these markers as indicated in the illustrations. The third side of your coins is as important as the obverse and reverse. You may want to pay more attention to it in the future!

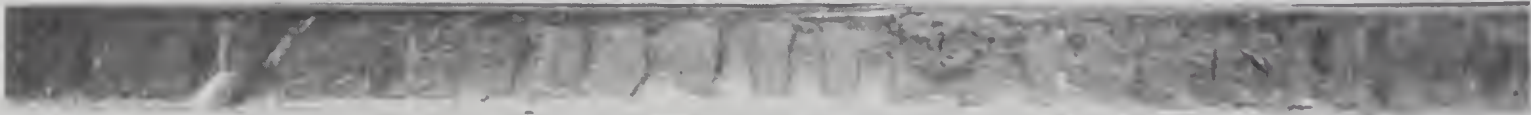
Being part of the team that authenticated and confirmed the new 1827 JR-14 die marriage was exciting. The feeling could only be eclipsed by that of the collector who discovered the coin. Spending quality time with John McCloskey during the drive was a wonderful bonus. Numismatics has been a wonderful part of my life. I only hope that every collector will be able to enjoy this hobby as much as I.

We all would like to thank **CoinWorld** for taking the time to image the discovery coin and others for comparison. The following illustrations are copyrighted images courtesy of **CoinWorld**.



1827 JR14

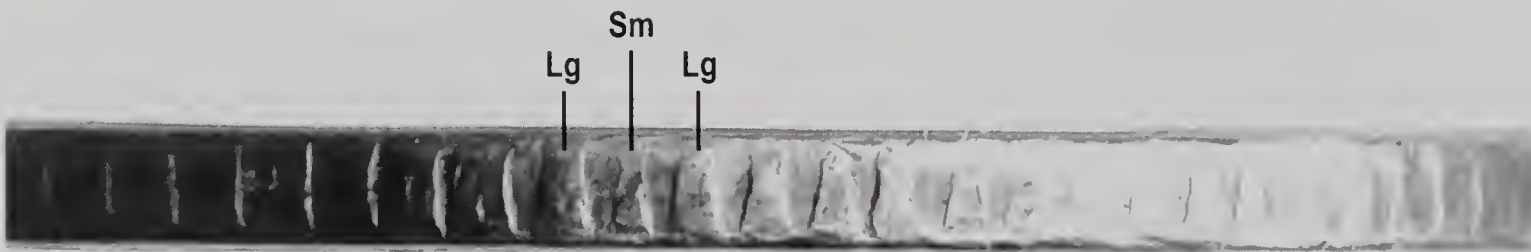




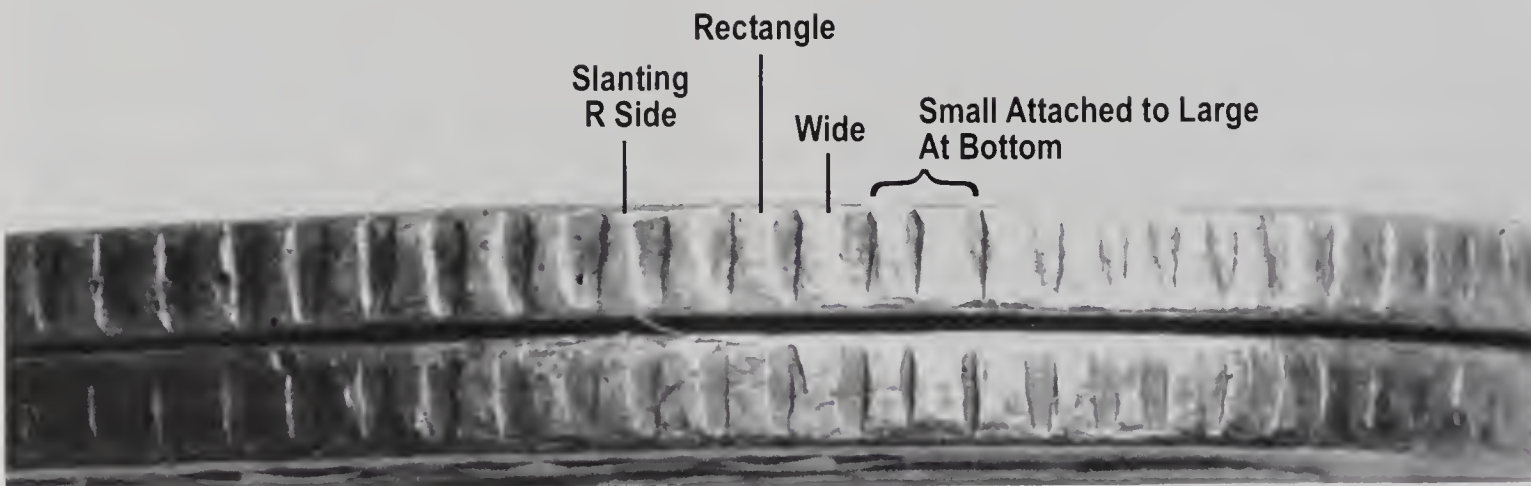
Indistinct Reeding: The collars did not fit “tight” like modern ones - They were more “open”, similar to those of the Capped Bust Halves? Indistinct areas can “move” around the circumference, although many times they appear in recurring areas.  
*See JRJ 13/3, July 2001, Collar Dies of our First Mint by Russ Logan.*



Sometimes the reeding is almost entirely missing in areas.



Here is a good example of the trapizoid shape of the individual reeds, and a marker of large, small, large reeds.



Reed matching between 1827 JR-14 and JR-2.

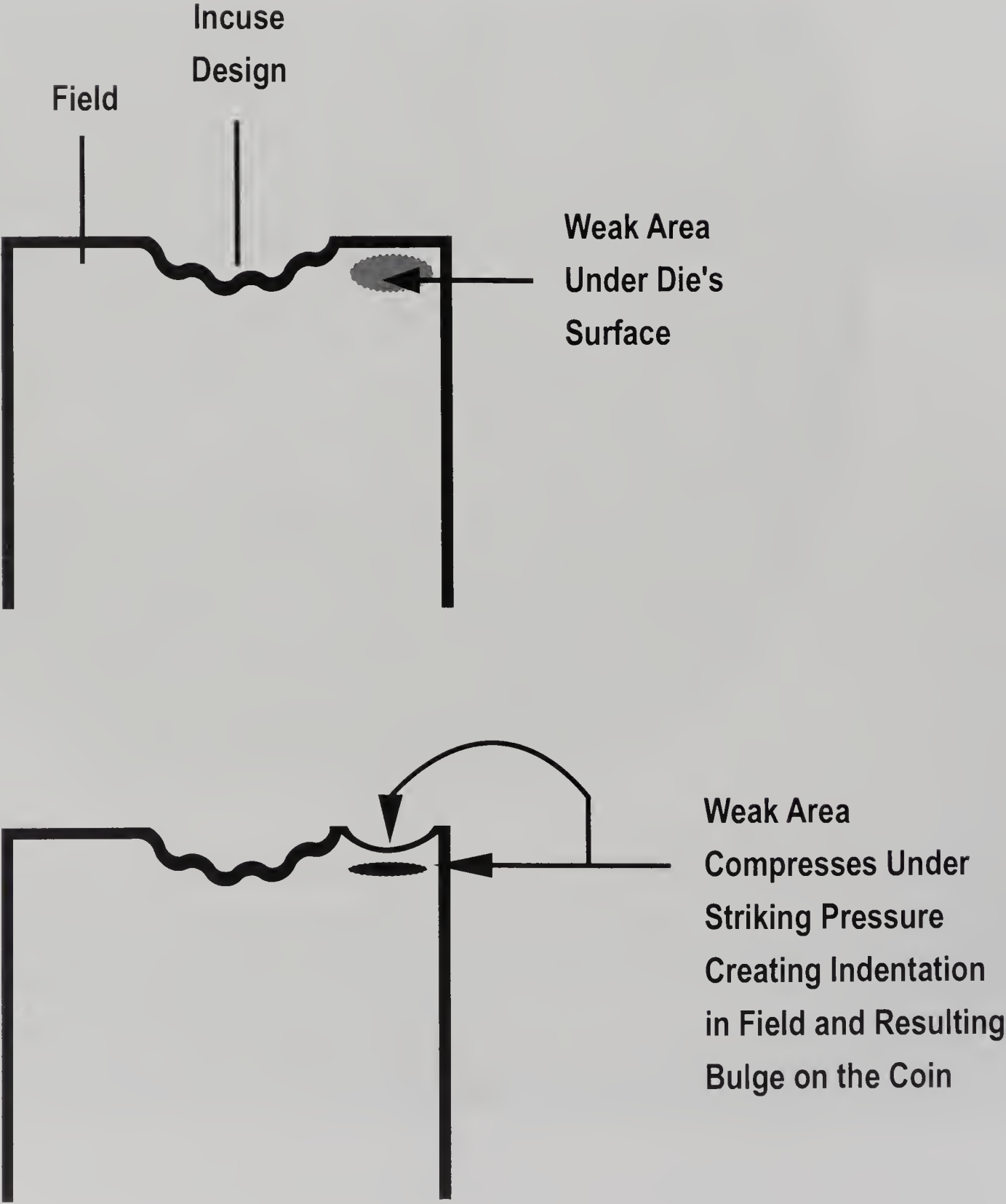
Toning  
Hides Small  
Die Bulges at  
Stars 1-3



Minor Die Bulging at stars 1-2. See *JRJ 15/2, July 2003, Bulges on Early Capped Bust Dimes* by John McCluskey. Also, notice the scratch between stars 1-2 and the dentils. This will serve as a "fingerprint" to identify the discovery coin.



"Die Bulges" are a result of a weakness in the die steel. A portion of the steel contains carbon impurities which are compressed by repeated strinkings under tons of pressure causing the field of the die to compress - or sink. This results in a raised area in the field of the struck coin.





Rust pits in die causing raised lumps of metal on the coin's surface





Evidence of Light Lapping - Some Star Points are "Bent" in a Clockwise Direction.

Good Strike - Almost Full Dentilation although star centers are a little weak on left side, Stars 1-7.





Rust pits in die causing raised lumps of metal on the coin's surface

Better than average strike exhibiting almost full dentilation.

Some weakness at eagle's claws and center of the shield.



# NEW 1827 Variety Quick Finding Chart

Reverses		Obverses								
		Recut 7	S2 and S3 Close; S3 Points to Center of Denticle	S7 Points between Denticles and to Top of Headband	High Date; S6 Close to Lower Edge of Denticle	S10 Rotated CW and Close to Upper Edge of Denticle	S7 Recut; S5 and S6 Close	S13 Recut; S7 Points to Upper Edge of Denticle	Digit 7 Low; S5 and S6 Close	S7 Points to Upper Edge of Headband
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
IT Very Close; T1 Doubled	A	1								
Talon through Arrow	B	14	2							
Double Denticle below Lower Left Olive Leaf	C		3							
Double Denticle over U	D			4	5					
ED Very Close and Even at Base	E				6					
A2 below M and Rotated CW	F					7	10			
I1 High; Die Line from Lowest Arrowhead	G					8	9			
SB-5	H							11		
A3 Joined to Arrowhead	I								12	
CA Joined; A3 Close to Arrowhead	J									13



# **A Day and Night With JCRS**

**Jack White**

The summer ANA was held in Boston this year. Living just twenty miles from the site I felt the show was a must to attend. Our editor encourages members to attend each year, both the show itself and the annual club meeting. Both should be considered if you live nearby.

This years meeting was set for eight AM. The last time I was at the Hynes Convention Center, the location of the show, I wrestled a 650 pound bear at a sportsmen show. That would prove to be easier than finding an unattributed R6 bust half on the bourse floor. I did find a R5+ dime though. More on that later.

Club President, Dave Davis, asked the attendees to stand and introduce themselves. It was a who's who of JRCS authors. After reading our journal for years it was nice to put faces to names. Steve Crain, a fellow New Englander, was the only member I knew.

After a brief meeting of club business, Jim Matthews gave a slide feature of full and retained cuds, with emphasis on bust dimes. Since his June 2005 (Volume16/ Issue3) article I've checked every dime I've seen for them with limited success. Jim's presentation was well done and most informative. I thanked him afterwards and introduced myself to Dave Perkins. Though my current love is Draped Bust Halves, bust dollars were what drew me to JRCS. I discussed with Dave a 1798 B7, BB95 which I purchased from a 2001 Maine auction. I wanted to know where it would rank in the condition census. With the bourse set to open, I thanked him and left the meeting.

On the floor I bought an attributed 1831 JR5 dime and found a two cent piece with a heavy reverse cud. Jim Matthews was having lunch nearby with Dave Perkins and I mentioned the coin to him. Being a collector of cuds for twenty five plus years Jim got up from lunch and walked over with me to view it. I learned later from him he purchased it.

I made my best buy of the show about an hour later. I found an 1830 dime in G6 with an unattributed cud. The coin was my first find of a cud. Attribution would have to wait for later. I wanted to attend the Bust Half Nut Club meeting at 3PM, which I felt was another must do. I'm about thirty marriages short of qualifying for membership at the



present time. After another informative presentation I snuck out at the break to finish up on the bourse. I wish I could have stayed for the discussion of the 1824 marriages which followed. Coincidentally I bought an 1824 soon after, O115.

I met up with Dave Perkins at his table to discuss show happenings. When I asked him the room number of the 8PM informal club get together, he invited me to dinner with Jim Matthews, himself, and others. We met at the show's conclusion at 6PM and left to eat. Over dinner I showed Jim my bust dime cud find and he laughed. His attribution was immediate and accurate. It's a 1830 JR1 he told me, a R5+ with the cud. The Reiver NGC VG8 brought \$340 in January, 2006. A nice little score.

After a two hour meal and coin talk, or should I say a two hour coin talk with an accompaniment of a meal with mostly dime and early dollar talk, it was off to the impromptu hotel room to talk more bust coins. We arrived at 8:30. I talked half dimes with Steve Crain, viewed the upcoming bust quarter book with Glenn Peterson and Rory Rea, and talked more bust coins with others. By 10:30 I was exhausted and called it a day. Quite an experience! I met many great people whose writings I've admired for years. The two who stand out were Jim Matthews and Dave Perkins, who encouraged me to write. Thanks to all the members I met. You guys made it quite a time! Finally; two formal meetings, two informal ones, a nice meal, three bust dimes, two bust quarters, and a bust half.



# **In Search of A.F. Dyer**

**Jeff Reichenberger**

This is the on-going story of a counterstamped Capped Bust Half Dollar that I recently acquired. As any of you know who have tried to track down the origins of a counterstamp, the task can be filled with gaps and unanswered questions. I hope JRCS members will read this and perhaps offer suggestions how to fill in those gaps.

In the spring issue of the quarterly journal of the Numismatists Of Wisconsin club (NOW), there was an article written by Gerald (Gene) Johnson who is a regular contributor to the publication and a founding member of the club. NOW was the 'other' less famous brainchild of Chester L. Krause back in 1960. Gene is a Wisconsin Trade Token expert and author of the definitive book on the subject to date, 'Trade Tokens of Wisconsin', 1967, 1977, 1993.

The article was entitled 'Old Friends', and began; "Fifty years is a long time to look for a lost 'friend' and this writing will mark the end of the search, but not my curiosity." He explains, "In early 1960 an altruistic numismatist from Washington State offered to swap me a counterstamped half dollar, 'A. F. DYER / 1869 / W. EAU. CLAIRE. / WIS.', for an amount of Idaho tokens. With the observation that 'a Wisconsin counterstamp should be in a Wisconsin collection'."

Gene's search for just who A. F. Dyer might be was intense for the first ten years, explaining that he exhausted his considerable personal references as well as those of the Eau Claire, WI public library with help from the reference librarian who took an interest in the search. They spent countless hours scouring newspaper microfilms, city and county directories, and name-by-name searches in Dunn Wisconsin Directories of the period.

The article immediately intrigued me, and being a certifiable Bust Half Nut, I was equally compelled by the coin. The accompanying scan of the coin was fuzzy at best, but nevertheless, I tried to attribute it. I could not do it, but what I could do was to pick up where Gene left off in the search for A. F. Dyer.

A lot has changed in the 50 years since Gene began his search, and I thought I might be able to find something on the internet, so I started with the simple and obvious quick search, 'A. F. Dyer' and found nothing. I delved into every conceivable combination of key words related to this subject...to no avail. Next I contacted the Eau Claire Historical Society. The archivist was unable to make any connection. Next it was the Eau Claire public library, the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, and the Wisconsin Historical



Society...nothing! I guess the more things change the more they stay the same!

Then a light bulb went on to show the way. Actually it was modern technology that lit the way – annoying modern technology – a pesky pop-up advertisement for Ancestry.com. I went to the site and found that they have a free search so I typed in, ‘Seeking A. F. Dyer’ and sent it into cyberspace. One week passed, then another week, then another, and then I got a reply! Shock and glee rushed over me at once. A kindly gentleman asked what the reason was for my search, (I guess the genealogy people don’t like to dole out information to just any old crackpot) I explained the counterstamp, name, year, and location, and he then sent me some compelling information that started the basis for my theory.

He suggested that I check the U. S. census listings. So I paid the nominal fee for a one month membership to Ancestry.com and searched everything! The kindly genealogist helped me along the way with the ‘how to search’, ‘where to look’, ‘what to look for’ questions I had – which were numerous.

Eventually I found a compelling lead. Could this be our man?

There was an inquiry that popped up from 1997 by someone in the Dyer family searching for the siblings of his grandfather. In his search he found one, Arthur Franklin Dyer, born 23 Oct. 1843; died 14 Nov. 1917; Portland, Maine. Buried in Bay View Cemetery, South Portland. This information apparently came by actual view of the gravestone, or perhaps cemetery records. I was unable to find anything online to confirm this information, no obituary, burial records, cemetery records, etc. and I was unable to locate this family member who conducted the inquiry.

In the 1850 Federal Census for Portland, Maine he is listed as A. F. Dyer, age 6, estimated date of birth 1844. Father Arthur, age 41, merchant; Mother Hannah, age 28. (I spoke to my genealogist friend about the discrepancies in age and birth years listed and he explained that this is common. Census takers were rarely sticklers for accuracy.)

In 1860, Portland, Maine, he is listed as Arthur F. Dyer, age 17, grocer and clerk.

In 1870, he is not found in Portland, Maine, however, there is a Frank Dyer listed in the Census for West Eau Claire, Wisconsin, age 24, estimated D.O.B about 1846, occupation – raftsman. (I learned that a raftsman was a lumberman whose job it was to ride huge

rafts made of logs and lumber down river to deliver them safely. The Chippewa River meets the Mississippi and the raftsmen would navigate many miles to different points down river, and then return by steamboat or by foot. The Chippewa River runs through Eau Claire, where during the 1850's, 60's, and 70's lumber was king. There were many mills operating in the area and they employed thousands of laborers. [1] ) Again, the age discrepancy is present. It was explained to me that a Census taker would enter a large labor camp, in this case a large lumber camp, and many of the workers would be out working, therefore, whomever was there to be counted would tell the census taker information about his fellow workers, or show them a labor roster. Looking at the actual census ledger shows that there were 46 individuals counted in the group with Frank Dyer. The majority of them were from Canada, Maine and New York, some were simply listed as being from the USA and a few were from Germany, Ireland, and Norway. Unfortunately, Frank was listed from the USA, not Maine. My speculation would be that whoever gave the census taker the information, simply did not know Frank's exact age or where he was from, other than he was an American.

In 1880, he is back in Portland, Maine listed as Arthur F. Dyer, age 36, wood and coal dealer.

He is not found anywhere in 1890, but in 1900 he is listed as Frank Dyer, age 55, laborer.

He is not found in 1910, and then we have the unverified death date; November 14, 1917.

So now I'm trying to cross-reference the findings for verification. I am in the process of searching archival records of the lumber companies that were operating at the time in hopes of finding which company he worked for and perhaps some paperwork that shows his full name, etc. It's a long shot because the mills hired so many men and generally with a handshake rather than formal paperwork.

Of course there are many more questions:

Why would he use his middle name? Who knows, remember he is listed as A. F., Arthur F., and Frank in the census records.

Would a young man in Maine go to Wisconsin for work in the lumber mills? The census roster shows that many workers came from Maine, New York, and Canada.



Would he make a 'pocket piece' out of a half dollar that represented a half-day's wages? (On average lumbermen made around 50c a day in 1870. However, raftsmen did better, making from \$1 to \$3 a day.) [2]

Did he make any more counterstamps? Perhaps when he returned to Maine? This particular piece is unique as far as we know.

## THE COIN

Naturally, after reading Gene's article and doing research on it, I was compelled to see if I could acquire the coin. Since Gene mentioned he was ending his search, I thought he might be willing to part with it and carry on the suggestion that 'a Wisconsin counterstamp should be in a Wisconsin collection'. And indeed, he was more than happy to accommodate. In a letter he replied to my inquiry: "Jeff...and I was very pleased to know that my counterstamp will find a Wisconsin home and a dedicated owner. My hope is that you will uncover the man Dyer and write a happy sequel to the wonderful token/coin and it's legacy of the man."

I met Gene at his home on a beautiful fall afternoon. We talked in his upstairs office for a couple hours and I discussed my findings with him. He was intrigued by the possibility that 'Frank' was our man. He was particularly pleased that there was a Frank Dyer placed in West Eau Claire, WI in 1870. To him this was the most applicable evidence for a couple reasons. First, the name West Eau Claire was short lived. Between 1860 and 1872, the area on the west side of the Chippewa River was known by no less than 4 names; Half Moon, Oak Grove, Randall Town, and lastly, West Eau Claire. In 1872, the three towns of West Eau Claire, North Eau Claire, and Eau Claire were incorporated into the singular 'Eau Claire'. [3] So there was perhaps a 4 or 5-year period when this part of town was known as West Eau Claire. Our man would have had to reside there and countermark his coin between 1867 and 1872, which he did (1869). Second, I estimated from the 1870 Federal Census that the entire population of the three areas of Eau Claire was approximately 3700. Slightly over one third of those, or about 1300, were listed from West Eau Claire. So out of 1300 residents in West Eau Claire in 1870 there is a man named Frank Dyer. (The census shows there were no other Dyers located in Eau Claire or the pre-incorporated towns 1850 - 1910) And we have a coin that is marked 'A. F. DYER, from West Eau Claire in 1869. The coincidence seems overwhelming.

The first thing I noticed about the 1811 Capped Bust Half when I had it in my hand was the small 8. Hope that I was holding an O113 was soon dashed, and from there it was a rather easy attribution. With the help of Al Overton, it is an O108. (It is listed in 'Merchant and Privately Countermarked Coins', by Gregory G. Brunk, D-646 pg. 376. 2003 Edition.)

Next I turned my attention to the countermark. Gene had mentioned in the article that he thought the counterstamping was from a prepared die. But a die-strike would more likely be associated with a merchant of some sort, and many would be struck to use as advertising. Conversely, a hand-punched piece is more conducive to a guy who just wanted to make a lucky pocket charm. Obviously, my theory wants this coin to be handpunched.

As I looked at the stamping, I wasn't so sure it was die struck. While it is well done, it certainly is not as perfect as one would expect from a prepared die. The arches of A.F. DYER and W. EAU CLAIRE are not quite contour. 1869 and WIS are on off-angles. Gene recalled that his conclusion of die-strike was mostly based on his observation that it is better done than other hand-punched pieces he has encountered. Neither of us being experts on the subject, he suggested I get an expert opinion.

When I got the coin home, I examined it on the microscope and found mounting evidence that it had been hand-punched: The letters are tilted in different directions, the depth of strike varies from letter to letter, the spacing of the letters varies, the depth and spacing of the periods varies. Close examination of the letters shows that the punches used are relatively crudely cut. The serifs are heavy and uneven, the stands are not uniform, and some of the serifs appear chipped or broken and mushy. I also believe that the same punch was used for some of the letters. The E's and A's match, the I's and R's appear to be the same punch but slightly damaged after the first blow. I think the 6 and 9 are the same punch flipped upside down. The bulging/flattening on the reverse appears uneven and lumpy as though some letters were punched with a heavier blow than others, whereas, a die strike would show more even flattening.

Taking Gene's advice, I sent photos and my observations to Edgar Souders and Brad Karoleff whom both emphatically pronounced, "Hand-Punched".

Establishing that this is a hand-punched pocket piece lends more credibility to my theory... but questions remain.



How does a lumberman get a hold of a set of letter punches? If he does get the punches, does he have the skill to stamp the coin? Did he pay someone else, perhaps a jeweler to execute the stamping? Since he had the punches in hand, did he make more than one?

## CONCLUSION

My theory is that around 1868, Arthur Franklin Dyer, at about age 25, packed up and left Portland, Maine, perhaps with a buddy or two, to answer the call for workers in the booming lumber industry in western Wisconsin. He either had some previous experience, or simply had the wherewithal, strength, dexterity, and swimming ability it takes to be a lumber raftsman. (Raftsmen were tested for their swimming skill.) [4] He liked his work but knew the dangers. On one of his paydays he took a half dollar, punched (or had punched) his identification on it and carried it with him every day on the job for good luck, or perhaps to identify his body should he meet his demise and go to the great log roller in the sky. He moved back to Maine when the lumber industry began to cool down in the mid to late 1870's. Did he carry the coin with him back east? Did he spend it before he left Wisconsin? I'll never know, but that won't keep me from wondering.

I would love to get some feedback from JRCS members. Let me know if this conjured up theory holds water. Is there anything else I can check to verify my theory? Am I missing anything? Would anyone else like to chime in on: die-strike vs. hand-punched? Has anyone ever seen another A. F. Dyer coin?

I will follow up on this story if anything else comes to light.

## SOURCES:

[1][3][4] *'The History of Eau Claire County', William F. Bailey, ed. 1842 – 1914.*

[1][2] *'Lumbermen on the Chippewa', Malcolm Rosholt, 1982.*

Special thanks to Gene Johnson for his trust, insight, and stewardship of this awesome half dollar.

Thanks to the NOW club and the NOW News.

Thanks to the genealogy gentleman I met on Ancestry.com. (Mr. Tim), who helped me immensely.



1811 O108 Capped Bust Half Dollar  
Counterstamped  
A.F. Dyer. 1869.  
W. EAU.CLAIRE. WIS.





# **A Cornucopia of Counterstamps**

**Nathan Markowitz**

Modern air travel and a planned family visit to Philadelphia afforded me the rare opportunity to view the myriad of counterstamps represented in the October 2010 Stacks Americana sale. An efficient suburban train whisked me to the convention center to examine the 335 lot selection mostly formed by Anthony Terranova. As a western resident I wondered how many numismatists have ridden the trains over the years before this automobile age to attend auctions since the days of early America when all collectors were concentrated in the east. I was at the birthplace of federal America and on hallowed numismatic ground.

This day I temporarily diverted my traditional early federal collecting interests towards the wide assortment of advertisements and names stamped on both American and foreign coins which circulated in early America. The many new owners of these pieces will hopefully add much to their relevance through further research. Fortified with my egg and adouille sausage sandwich and turbocharged coffee from the adjacent historic Reading Market. I was ready to roll with the nice folks at Stacks in room 105; my first Stacks auction ever.

Lot 5001 was the starting point for two hours of contented counterstamp study. I will present a tour of this collection focusing on the early coins. I profess no special expertise in this arena and will share mostly highlights across the sale which attracted my own eye and which I observed hammer down Saturday morning. As a novice, my own focus was on the unusual and also those pieces I judged to be especially eye appealing.

The short copper run was the star of the sale. The eye appeal of the engraved coppers, particularly Lot 5008 a fabulously engraved “pine tree shilling” on a late date large cent attributed to the engraver Betts which hammered at \$1600 in spirited bidding. Lot 5003 was a very lovely 1801 cent engraved with a very lovely lady which brought \$600. Both these boasted excellent surfaces. Lot 5013, a “must have” for the collector of 1815 cents was the plain large cent planchet engraved on one side “none coined in 1815”. This will fit well with any of the four 1815 altered date specimens offered in Goldbergs recent Dan Holmes sale.

Moving to our shared silver passion Lot 5019 was an interesting draped bust dime with “Eagle Hotel” well impressed on the eagle bringing \$500. Lot 5020 was a nice example of a punch counterstamp in an off center 1814 dime; two weird things on one coin; just what we all appreciate. I doubt another example of both coexist.

The early quarter run included a Bolivar stamp reportedly unique on a federal issue which hammered to the book for \$1500. Lot 5041 had very nice eye appeal and this 1821 capped bust quarter stamped “G.C. Hobbs” brought \$325...a great research project for the astute new owner.

The half dollar offering was extensive and fascinating. It is interesting that so many halves were counterstamped; as a high value coin this seems a bit odd but perhaps the simple population of halves and their relative survival explains these findings. Lot 5077, a 1794 half with a cartouche punch sold to a well known collector. Lot 5080 stamped with an eagle design and “NEW HAVEN” brought \$950. Lot 5085 was an 1807 half with the popular curved cartouche “W. Levis” counterstamp bringing \$1300 in spirited bidding. This example also boasted a plain punch on the R of Liberty reminiscent of the Mohawk valley hoard unearthed a few years ago. Not to be outdone by the copper in the sale was an 1807 CBH with “None coined in 1798” on the reverse. One lucky collector now has a full date set of CBHs! One of the sale highlights was an elegantly engraved 1810 half “Handsome Harry”, “King of ‘em all” bringing \$550 and well related to a known historical event. My vote for the most beautiful coin was a Houcks Panacea Counterstamp (Lot 5102) on a stunning 1822/1 half dollar which sold after a frantic podium versus floor battle to the podium for \$3000 hammer.

The early dollars featured a remarkable four flowing hair examples—all of which drew intense interest. My personal favorite Lot 5171 sold for \$2800 to the early dollar collector sitting next to me: despite a low grade this piece had wonderful balance of color with counterstamp and boasted a known location Nashua, NH. We will await further research on the identity of N. P. McKean listed on this coin. A draped bust dollar, Lot 959, brought \$800 with a rather odd assortment of multiple circular stamps relating to a patent.



Among non bust coinage two examples caught my attention. Lot 5192 was a truly cool 1872 dollar dished out with terrific engraving on the reverse demonstrating a canon and memorializing the 5th light battery of the Mass Volunteer Militia. Another star was the 1861 five dollar gold piece with a paquet Lincoln medal overstruck on the obverse in such a fashion as it created a prolific image of Honest Abe floating over an eerie ghostlike image of Lady Liberty. This ghostly October surprise sold for \$1600, sadly not to me.

Arguably, the most “important” merchant tokens began with Lot 5220/5221, the beginning of the “foreign” coinage. Despite our shared passion for collecting early federal silver, many more spanish and foreign coins circulated in John Reich’s America than his own issues. This very long run of predominantly 2 reale coins served as commonly circulated advertising tokens for the era. Such names as “Millers Hair Invigorator”, “C.C. Tracy Saw Filer”, and “Pierces Rosetta Hair Tonic”(perhaps to be used with the first product) are but a few examples of this intriguing long run of “American coinage” used for advertising.

Now that my brief counterstamp tour is over, the real work begins. Perhaps we can continue this discussion online in the JR Newsletter as new owners and researchers discover more on these wonderful pieces. I invite any corrections and await the learned research of my fellow collectors to further elucidate the identity of those immortalized on these familiar coins. I just plain had fun viewing this collection.



# **Finest Certified 1829 Curl Base 2 Capped Bust Dime Recently Graded**

**Winston Zack, with additional comments by Louis Scuderi**

Rare coins and rare die marriages are still out there to be found! They may not be available in the quantity collectors would wish to cherry pick them, but enough are left to continue to fuel their ambition.

Ever since I started collecting the Capped Bust Dime series, the 1829 Curl Base 2 Dime has been an almost mythical coin to me. Its ease in identification compared with its rarity, popularity and expense taunted me. It was the one coin I wanted but never expected to own.

Well, this past summer my wishes were granted. I found myself in the very fortunate circumstance to acquire an unusually nice 1829 Curl Base 2 Capped Bust Dime. By now I was experienced enough in this series to know how rare nice, original examples of this die marriage were and I was shocked to see this coin unattributed. It literally should not exist.

This is a previously unknown specimen of the very rare and popular 1829 JR-10 die marriage, otherwise known as the “Curl Base 2” for the uniquely curled bottom of the “2” in the date. I recently had PCGS grade this coin at the Winter FUN show in Tampa where it received a grade of VF-35. This coin is now the single finest certified example of this die marriage known to exist; PCGS claims to have certified an AU-53 example, but the whereabouts and authenticity of this coin are in doubt amongst most Bust Dime collectors. This coin is also one grade stronger than the PCGS VF-30 that sold in Bowers and Merena’s 2009 FUN show auction realizing \$34,500.

There are several reasons why this coin is so popular with collectors. 1) It is easily identified by the Curl of the “2” in the date. 2) It is quite rare, R5+ with about 40 examples known. 3) It is very difficult to find a nice, problem-free example; almost all known examples are known in VG and lower grades, with about half of these examples exhibiting some sort of damage (scratched, cleaned, etc. especially on the obverse), and 4) the curl base 2 is a coin needed for advanced type set collectors.



Despite the ease of identification of the distinctive curl 2, this die marriage was only just discovered in 1973. Several examples were found within a decade after the discovery. In recent decades, with more collectors searching for this rare variety, on average one new example has appeared each year.

Collector and researcher Louis Scuderi has meticulously tracked all known examples of this die marriage over the past 15 years. He reports that while approximately 40 examples are known to exist, only four examples, including this specimen, exhibit F15 to VF35 details, and that this is the finest example he has ever seen. Later Louis will discuss the die states, striking characteristics and condition census of all documented specimens of the 1829 Curl Base 2 dime.



# The John Reich Collectors Society wants you!

To recruit one new member to our organization, copy this membership  
or direct them to our new website, [www.jrcs.org](http://www.jrcs.org).

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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The purpose of The John Reich Collectors Society ("JRCS") is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States silver and gold coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins. A member's name and address will not be included in any membership directory issued by JRCS or be disclosed to others without prior consent of such member.

Check the appropriate space below:

\_\_\_\_ Collector \_\_\_\_ Collector-Dealer \_\_\_\_ Dealer (Firm Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate your area(s) of interest in Early United States Coins:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| a ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dimes     | h ____ Capped Bust Quarter Dollars    |
| b ____ Draped Bust Half Dimes           | i ____ Flowing Hair Bust Half Dollars |
| c ____ Capped Bust Half Dimes           | j ____ Draped Bust Half Dollars       |
| d ____ Draped Bust Small Eagle Dimes    | k ____ Capped Bust Half Dollars       |
| e ____ Draped Bust Heraldic Eagle Dimes | l ____ Flowing Hair Bust Dollars      |
| f ____ Capped Bust Dimes                | m ____ Draped Bust Dollars            |
| g ____ Draped Bust Quarter Dollars      | n ____ Gold Issues                    |

I hereby apply for membership in JRCS. As required by the By-Laws of JRCS I agree to pay promptly all my debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I enclose a check or money order for \$25.00 payable to "John Reich Collectors Society" for my annual membership contribution, or \$625.00 for a life membership in the Society.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of applicant)

If applying for reinstatement, please give your former JRCS member # \_\_\_\_\_

Guarantee (if Applicant is under 21 years):  
I guarantee payment by the Applicant of his/her debts or other obligations to JRCS or any of its members. I am 21 years or older.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Guarantor)  
Relation to Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Statement:  
I sponsor the above Applicant for membership in JRCS.  
My JRCS member number is # \_\_\_\_\_

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